

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5 1. A method for scheduling and delivery of a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:
receiving route information from a buyer;
selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information; and
10 dispatching a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing a product ordered by the buyer.
- 15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein selecting a pickup point further comprises:
receiving a channel width from the buyer;
calculating a channel area using the channel width and the route information;
determining a set of pickup points from the plurality of pickup points based on the channel
20 area;
selecting from the set of pickup points a pickup point.
- 25 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of pickup points is determined using an approximate buyer route concentration based on route usage.
- 30 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a plurality of routes from a plurality of buyers; and
determining the plurality of pickup points based on the plurality of routes.
- 35 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a specification of a plurality of

preferred products;
receiving an occurrence rate for each of the
5 plurality of preferred products; and
ordering the product for the buyer using the
occurrence rates.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising reminding
10 the buyer via email that a product delivery is scheduled
at the pickup point.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising reminding
the buyer telephonically that a product delivery is
15 scheduled at the pickup point.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein:
the mobile pickup station includes a plurality of
lockers for containing products, each of the
20 plurality of lockers having a unique access code;
and
giving the buyer an access code for a locker
containing the buyer's product, the locker selected
from the plurality of lockers.

9. A method of determining for a buyer a store where a
product may be purchased, comprising:
receiving product information from a buyer;
receiving route information from the buyer, the
30 route information including a route and channel
width; and
selecting a set of stores from a plurality of stores
based on the product information and the route
information.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein selecting the set of stores comprises:

5 providing a store database, the store database containing location and product information for each of the plurality of stores;
using the route and channel width to calculate a channel area; and
10 searching the store database for a set of stores carrying the product wherein each store in the set of stores is located within the channel area.

11. A method for scheduling and delivery of a product to a buyer by a seller using a third party seller affiliate, comprising:

15 receiving an order for a product from a buyer;
receiving route information from a buyer;
selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information;
20 selecting a third party seller affiliate from a plurality of third party sellers based on the location of the pickup point; and
dispatching by the third party seller affiliate a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the
25 mobile pickup station containing the products ordered by the buyer.

12. A method for scheduling and delivery of a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:

30 receiving route information from a buyer;
selecting from a plurality of fixed pickup stations a fixed pickup station based on the route information; and
35 delivering a product ordered by the buyer to the

fixed pickup station.

5 13. The method of Claim 12, wherein selecting a fixed pickup station further comprises:

receiving a channel width from the buyer;

calculating a channel area using the channel width and the route information;

10 determining a set of fixed pickup stations from the plurality of fixed pickup stations based on the channel area;

selecting from the set of fixed pickup stations a fixed pickup station.

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14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a specification of a plurality of preferred products;

20 receiving an occurrence rate for each of the plurality of preferred products; and

ordering the product for the buyer using the occurrence rates.

25 15. The method of Claim 12, further comprising reminding the buyer via email that a product delivery is scheduled at the fixed pickup station.

30 16. The method of Claim 12, further comprising reminding the buyer telephonically that a product delivery is scheduled at the fixed pickup station.

17. The method of Claim 12, wherein:
the fixed pickup station includes a plurality of
35 lockers for containing products, each of the

plurality of lockers having a unique access code;
and

5 giving the buyer an access code for a locker
containing the buyer's product, the locker selected
from the plurality of lockers.

10 18. A method for scheduling pickup of a package from a
user along the user's commuting route, comprising:
receiving route information from a user;
selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup
point based on the route information; and
15 dispatching a mobile pickup station to the pickup
point, the mobile pickup station for picking up the
package from the user.

20 19. The method of Claim 18, wherein selecting a pickup
point further comprises:
receiving a channel width from the user;
calculating a channel area using the channel width
and the route information;
determining a set of pickup points from the
plurality of pickup points based on the channel
25 area;
selecting from the set of pickup points a pickup
point.

30 20. The method of Claim 18, wherein the plurality of
pickup points is determined using an approximate user
route concentration based on route usage.

35 21. The method of Claim 18, further comprising:
receiving a plurality of routes from a plurality of
users; and

determining the plurality of pickup points based on
the plurality of routes.

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22. The method of Claim 18, further comprising reminding
the user via email that a package pickup is scheduled at
the pickup point.

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23. The method of Claim 18, further comprising reminding
the user telephonically that a package pickup is
scheduled at the pickup point.

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24. The method of Claim 18, wherein:
the mobile pickup station includes a plurality of
lockers for containing products, each of the
plurality of lockers having a unique access code;
and
giving the user an access code for a locker
containing the user's product, the locker selected
from the plurality of lockers.

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25. A method for scheduling pickup of a package from a
user along the user's commuting route, comprising:
receiving route information from a user; and
selecting from a plurality of fixed pickup stations
a fixed pickup station based on the route
information.

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26. The method of Claim 25, wherein selecting a fixed
pickup station further comprises:
receiving a channel width from the user;
calculating a channel area using the channel width
and the route information;

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determining a set of fixed pickup stations from the
plurality of fixed pickup stations based on the
5 channel area;
selecting from the set of fixed pickup stations a
fixed pickup station.

27. The method of Claim 25, further comprising reminding
10 the user via email that a package pickup is scheduled at
the fixed pickup station.

28. The method of Claim 25, further comprising reminding
the user telephonically that a package pickup is
15 scheduled at the fixed pickup station.

29. The method of Claim 25, wherein:
the fixed pickup station includes a plurality of
lockers for containing packages, each of the
20 plurality of lockers having a unique access code;
and
giving the user an access code for a locker to
contain the user's package, the locker selected from
the plurality of lockers.

30. A method for scheduling and delivery of a product to
a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:
receiving route information from a buyer;
receiving a channel width from the buyer;
30 calculating a channel area using the channel width
and the route information;
determining a set of pickup points from a plurality
of pickup points based on the channel area;
selecting from the set of pickup points a pickup
35 point; and

dispatching a mobile pickup station to the pickup
point, the mobile pickup station containing a
5 product ordered by the buyer.

31. The method of Claim 30, wherein the plurality of
pickup points is determined using an approximate buyer
10 route concentration based on route usage.

32. The method of Claim 30, further comprising:
receiving a plurality of routes from a plurality of
buyers; and
15 determining the plurality of pickup points based on
the plurality of routes.

33. A data processing system adapted to schedule and
deliver a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting
20 route, comprising:

a processor; and
a memory operably coupled to the processor and
having program instructions stored therein, the
processor being operable to execute the program
25 instructions, the program instructions including:
receiving route information from a buyer;
selecting from a plurality of pickup points a
pickup point based on the route information;
and
30 dispatching a mobile pickup station to the
pickup point, the mobile pickup station
containing a product ordered by the buyer.

34. The data processing system of Claim 33, wherein the
35 program instructions for selecting a pickup point further

include:

5 receiving a channel width from the buyer;
calculating a channel area using the channel width
and the route information;
determining a set of pickup points from the
plurality of pickup points based on the channel
area;
10 selecting from the set of pickup points a pickup
point.

15 35. The data processing system of Claim 33, the program
instructions further including determining the plurality
of pickup points using an approximate buyer route
concentration based on route usage.

20 36. The data processing system of Claim 33, the program
instructions further including:
receiving a plurality of routes from a plurality of
buyers; and
determining the plurality of pickup points based on
the plurality of routes.

25 37. The data processing system of Claim 33, the program
instructions further including:
receiving a specification of a plurality of
preferred products;
receiving an occurrence rate for each of the
30 plurality of preferred products; and
ordering the product for the buyer using the
occurrence rates.

35 38. The data processing system of Claim 33, the program
instructions further including reminding the buyer via

email that a product delivery is scheduled at the pickup point.

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39. The data processing system of Claim 33, the program instructions further including reminding the buyer telephonically that a product delivery is scheduled at the pickup point.

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40. A data processing system adapted to determine for a buyer a store where a product may be purchased along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:

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a processor; and
a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:
receiving product information from a buyer;
receiving route information from the buyer, the route information including a route and channel width; and
selecting a set of stores from a plurality of stores based on the product information and the route information.

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41. The data processing system of Claim 40, wherein the program instructions for selecting the set of stores include:

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accessing a store database containing location and product information for each of the plurality of stores using the route and channel width to calculate a channel area; and
searching the store database for a set of stores

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carrying the product wherein each store in the set
of stores is located within the channel area,.

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42. A data processing system adapted to schedule and
deliver a product to a buyer by a seller using a third
party seller affiliate, comprising:

a processor; and

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a memory operably coupled to the processor and
having program instructions stored therein, the
processor being operable to execute the program
instructions, the program instructions including:

receiving an order for a product from a buyer;

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receiving route information from a buyer;

selecting from a plurality of pickup points a
pickup point based on the route information;

selecting a third party seller affiliate from a
plurality of third party sellers based on the
location of the pickup point; and

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dispatching by the third party seller affiliate
a mobile pickup station to the pickup point,
the mobile pickup station containing the
products ordered by the buyer.

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43. A data processing system adapted to schedule and
deliver a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting
route, comprising:

a processor; and

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a memory operably coupled to the processor and
having program instructions stored therein, the
processor being operable to execute the program
instructions, the program instructions including:

receiving route information from a buyer;

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selecting from a plurality of fixed pickup

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stations a fixed pickup station based on the
route information; and

5 delivering a product ordered by the buyer to
the fixed pickup station.

44. The data processing system of Claim 43, wherein the
program instructions for selecting a fixed pickup station
10 further include:

receiving a channel width from the buyer;
calculating a channel area using the channel width
and the route information;
determining a set of fixed pickup stations from the
15 plurality of fixed pickup stations based on the
channel area;
selecting from the set of fixed pickup stations a
fixed pickup station.

20 45. The data processing system of Claim 43, the program
instructions further including:

receiving a specification of a plurality of
preferred products;
25 receiving an occurrence rate for each of the
plurality of preferred products; and
ordering the product for the buyer using the
occurrence rates.

30 46. The data processing system of Claim 43, the program
instructions further including reminding the buyer via
email that a product delivery is scheduled at the fixed
pickup station.

35 47. The data processing system of Claim 43, the program

instructions further including reminding the buyer
telephonically that a product delivery is scheduled at
5 the fixed pickup station.

48. A data processing system adapted to scheduling pickup
of a package from a user along the user's commuting
route, comprising:

10 a processor; and
a memory operably coupled to the processor and
having program instructions stored therein, the
processor being operable to execute the program
instructions, the program instructions including:
15 receiving route information from a user;
selecting from a plurality of pickup points a
pickup point based on the route information;
and
dispatching a mobile pickup station to the
20 pickup point, the mobile pickup station for
picking up the package from the user.

49. The data processing system of Claim 48, the program
instructions further including:

25 receiving a channel width from the user;
calculating a channel area using the channel width
and the route information;
determining a set of pickup points from the
plurality of pickup points based on the channel
30 area;
selecting from the set of pickup points a pickup
point.

50. The data processing system of Claim 48, the program
35 instructions further including determining the plurality

of pickup points using an approximate user route
concentration based on route usage.

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51. The data processing system of Claim 48, the program
instructions further including:

receiving a plurality of routes from a plurality of
users; and

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determining the plurality of pickup points based on
the plurality of routes.

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52. The data processing system of Claim 48, the program
instructions further including reminding the user via
email that a package pickup is scheduled at the pickup
point.

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53. The data processing system of Claim 48, the program
instructions further including reminding the user
telephonically that a package pickup is scheduled at the
pickup point.

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54. A data processing system adapted to schedule pickup
of a package from a user along the user's commuting
route, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and
having program instructions stored therein, the

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processor being operable to execute the program
instructions, the program instructions including:

receiving route information from a user;

receiving a channel width from the user;

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calculating a channel area using the channel

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width and the route information;
determining a set of fixed pickup stations from
the plurality of fixed pickup stations based on
the channel area; and
selecting from the set of fixed pickup stations
a fixed pickup station.

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